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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Pocomoke City Historic District Inventory Number: WO-187

Address: Various City: Pocomoke Zip Code: 21851

County: Worcester USGS Topographic Map: Pocomoke City

Owner: Various

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: River Front Museum Agency: USDA RD

Site visit by MHT Staff: ___no ___yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Is the property located within a historic district? ___no ___yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? ___no ___yes Determined eligible? ___no ___yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Records, *Along the Seaboard Side* by Paul Touart

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

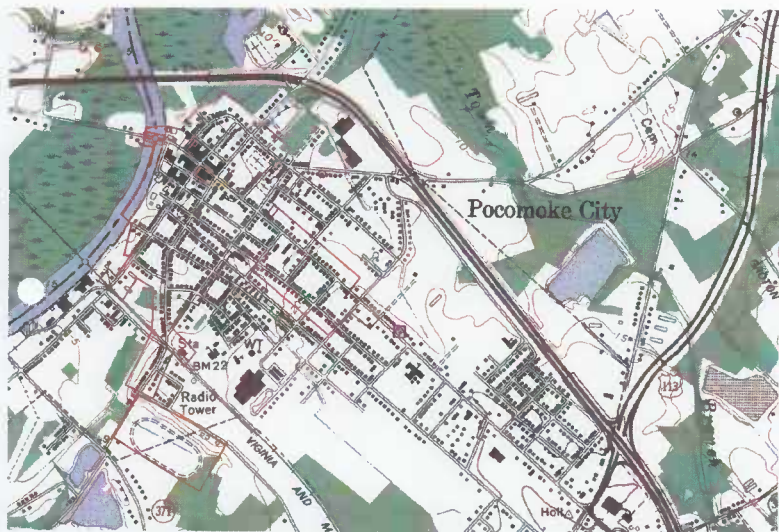
Pocomoke City is a typical small town on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It grew to importance during the nineteenth century as an agricultural center and shipping point on the Pocomoke River. Most of the houses were built during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and show the normal range of style from gingerbread Victorian, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, to Bungalow. Many are vernacular. Most of the business district is characteristic of the early twentieth century. Pocomoke city is significant because of its past progressive role in the development of the surrounding Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and because most of the buildings have not been altered to a significant degree, leaving much of the town's late nineteenth/early twentieth century character intact.

Prepared by: George Andreve, MIHP Form

Date Prepared: _____

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: <u>X</u> A ___ B <u>X</u> C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
Comments: _____	

Patricia M. Blick	February 9, 2001
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/15/01</u>
Reviewer, NR-program	Date



Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic POCOMOKE CITY SURVEY DISTRICT (DOE)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Various Streets not for publication

city, town Pocomoke City vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Various

street & number Various telephone no.: Various

city, town Various state and zip code Various

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber

street & number Various folio

city, town Snow Hill state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Various

date Various federal state county local

pository for survey records Various

city, town Various state Various

7. Description

Survey No. WO-187

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Pocomoke City Survey District is a collection of primarily late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings within the town of Pocomoke City on the Pocomoke River in Worcester County.

Documentation for the survey form was prepared for a Determination of Eligibility. Further information on the district is available in the files of the Compliance Office at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Buildings in Pocomoke City already listed on the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Sites in Worcester County include;

W-64 Hearn House
W-128 Crockett House
W-129 St. Mary the Virgin P. E. Church
W-130 Vestry, St. Mary the Virgin P. E. Church
W-131 Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church
W-132 206 Market Street
W-133 403 Market Street
W-183 Costen House

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-187

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SIGNIFICANCE

Pocomoke City is a typical small town on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It grew to importance during the nineteenth century as an agricultural center and shipping point on the Pocomoke River. Most of the houses were built during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and show the normal range of style from gingerbread Victorian, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, to Bungalow. Many are vernacular. Most of the business district is characteristic of the early twentieth century, and there is an exceptional 1920's theater interior. Pocomoke City is significant because of its past progressive role in the development of the surrounding Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and because most of the buildings have not been altered to a significant degree, leaving much of the town's late nineteenth/early twentieth century character intact.

HISTORY

Pocomoke City, Maryland, is now Worcester County's largest and most industrially developed town. Though initially called Meeting House Landing (1683–4) because of the Presbyterian House of Worship built at the foot of Willow Street in 1682, the name was changed to Warehouse Landing (c. 1700) when a tobacco warehouse was built. By about 1780, it was called New Town, but there is no record of the reason. Then, in 1878 with a population of 1500, the General Assembly of Maryland named the town Pocomoke City as a result of the efforts of Rev. T. O. Ayers.

Since Pocomoke City is located inland between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean but on the Pocomoke River with access to the bay, it became an important shipping point for produce and other goods early in the nineteenth century.

(Continued)

Survey No. WO-187

PS-2746

POCOMOKE CITY SURVEY DISTRICT

HISTORY (Continued)

Hand sown pine plank, cypress shingles, cooper's ware, corn, flaxseed, dried fruit and feathers were traded at ports on the Chesapeake Bay or shipped to the West Indies for molasses, sugar, coffee, rum and tropical fruits. About 1790-1800 a Frenchman named Boozee had opened a store at Market and Front Streets. The first steam mill began making shingles in 1839 and later became a saw mill. During the period 1845-65, John Ashcraft and Ezra B. Risley bought all the cypress swamps below New Town, built a large steam saw mill and marketed timber and lumber in their own vessels. That stimulated business in New Town, raised the price of labor and helped the establishment of other such mills nearby in the county. By 1865, shipbuilding in New Town competed with Snow Hill about 14 miles upriver; and, by 1886, the town was recognized as a major Worcester County shipyard center.

The economy of Pocomoke City was further stimulated when a major rail line was built linking the town to New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk. Though there were 19 general merchandise and grocery stores in 1878, the town grew rapidly during the 1880's. At that time there were eight large vessels sailing from Pocomoke City engaged in bay trade and one or two steamboats to Baltimore. Shipbuilding, timber steam milling, and the marine railway business increased. It also had the best high school on the Eastern Shore according to the Superintendent of Public Schools of Maryland. The Pocomoke Foundry and Machine Works, a grain elevator, Eagle Mills and the Peninsula Produce Exchange were in operation during the first decade of the twentieth century.

Pocomoke City continued to be the agricultural center for the lower Eastern Shore into the 1920's. A long growing season permitted harvesting through mid-November. The railroad and access to the bay enabled rapid shipment of Irish and sweet potatoes, apples, pears, and peaches. The town was progressive and prosperous having a public school house which has been described as the wonder of the Eastern Shore, paved streets and sidewalks, sewer lines, the first streets lit by electric bulbs on the Shore and the two-story T. F. Hargis Department Store, the largest on the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula.

Today, the economy of Pocomoke City is not what it once was, and there were disastrous fires in 1866, 1888, and 1892. The worst was in 1922 when a large portion of the business district was destroyed. Nevertheless, the town retains its late nineteenth/early twentieth century character with relatively few changes and intrusions. There are some large houses with fine Victorian detail incorporating Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne designs. In general, the houses are 2 ½ - story frame. Some have a moderate amount of gingerbread, and those are usually on major streets such as Market, 4th or Clarke. However, most are of simple design. Various types of the latter vernacular dwellings form a marked visual separation of small, adjacent neighborhoods and reflect their economic status and construction dates through a change in design, workmanship and scale. In contrast is the business district of mostly two to three-story brick or concrete buildings between Second Street and the river and about two blocks south of Market on Second and Clarke. Together these elements form a typical town on Maryland's Eastern Shore, one that is basically unaltered with much of its turn-of-the-century character preserved.



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Pocomoke City Historic District



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Pocomoke City Historic District



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Pocomoke City Historic District



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Pocomoke City Historic District



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Pocomoke City Historic District



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Pocomoke City Historic District